

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1 and 16-18, without prejudice, wherein underlining indicates additions and strikethrough indicates deletions, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A dispensing package comprising:

a square-tubular case housing stacked unit packages, each package containing a plurality of stick-like articles aligned in parallel with the front wall of the square-tubular case, a first stick-like article of each unit package being positioned adjacent the front wall and a second stick-like article being positioned adjacent a rear wall of the square-tubular case;

an opening for putting in and out the unit packages provided on an upper part of said square-tubular case;

a lid for closing said opening;

a bottom; and

an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion for forming an extracting outlet for extracting the unit packages one at a time, the extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that a front end is lower than a rear end,

wherein a top surface of said bottom is inclined so that a front side of the bottom is lower than a rear side thereof and said extracting outlet or the tear-off portion is provided on a side wall of said square-tubular case such that the unit package, which is to be placed on the top surface of the bottom, is taken out of the outlet from one end of the stick-like articles in the unit package.

2. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein said unit packages contain a plurality of batteries aligned in parallel with the front wall of the square-tubular case.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein said square-tubular case has a bottom surface with which the square-tubular case can stand independently on a mounting board.

5. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein a suspending piece for suspending the square-tubular case is provided on a top end of the square-tubular case.

6. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least the front wall of the square-tubular case is transparent.

7. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein a partition is placed on the unit package in the highest position in the square-tubular case.

8. – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The dispensing package in accordance with claim 1, wherein said dispensing package is assembled by a single sheet and a base, the base including a top surface which is inclined so that a front side of the base is lower than a rear side thereof, said single sheet comprising:

- a front wall, a rear wall and right and left side walls forming the square-tubular case;
- flaps and a top wall for closing the upper opening of the square-tubular case;
- a bottom wall constituting a bottom of the square-tubular case; and
- a tear-off portion for forming the extracting outlet.

15. (Previously Presented) A dispensing package comprising:

- a square-tubular case housing stacked unit packages, each package containing a plurality of stick-like articles aligned in parallel with the front wall of the square-tubular case;

- an opening for putting in and out the unit packages provided on an upper part of said square-tubular case;

- a lid for closing said opening;

- a bottom; and

- an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion for forming an extracting outlet for extracting the unit package, the extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that a front end is lower than a rear end, wherein a top surface of said bottom is inclined so that a front side of the bottom

is lower than a rear side thereof and said extracting outlet or the tear-off portion is provided on a side wall of said square-tubular case such that the unit package, which is to be placed on the top surface of the bottom, is taken out of the outlet from one end of the stick-like articles in the unit package, wherein said dispensing package is assembled by a single sheet, said single sheet comprising:

a front wall, a rear wall and right and left side walls forming the square-tubular case;

flaps and a top wall for closing the upper opening of the square-tubular case;

a first base-forming portion including bottom wall pieces, upstanding pieces and top surface pieces that are respectively connected to the lower part of said right and left side walls;

a bottom wall connected to a lower part of said front wall;

a second base-forming portion including an upstanding piece, a top surface piece and a down-standing piece that are respectively connected to the rear wall; and

a tear-off portion for forming the extracting outlet.

16. (Currently Amended) A dispensing package comprising:

a square-tubular case housing stacked unit packages, each unit package containing a plurality of cylindrical batteries aligned in parallel with the front wall of the square-tubular case, a first battery of each unit package being positioned proximate the front wall and a second battery of each unit package being positioned proximate a rear wall of the square-tubular case, the batteries being assembled in parallel in said unit packages and each battery having a diameter;

an opening for putting in and out the unit packages provided on an upper part of said square-tubular case;

a lid for closing said opening;

a bottom; and

an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion for extracting one of the unit packages, the extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that a front end is lower than a rear end, the

extracting outlet extending from a first end adjacent the front wall of the square-tubular case to a second end adjacent a rear wall of the square-tubular case,

wherein a top surface of said bottom is inclined so that a front side of the bottom is lower than a rear side thereof and said extracting outlet or the tear-off portion is provided on a side wall of said square-tubular case, a height of the extracting outlet or tear-off portion from the first end to the second end thereof being less than twice a diameter of the batteries such that the unit package that is in facing engagement with the top surface of the bottom is taken out of the outlet from one end of the batteries in the unit package.

17. (Currently Amended) A dispensing package comprising:

a ~~square~~-tubular case including a bottom and side walls, said bottom including a top surface, a front side and a rear side, said top surface being inclined so that said front side is lower than said rear side;

an opening in an upper part of said ~~square~~-tubular case;

a lid for closing said opening; and

an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion being formed in one of said side walls, said extracting outlet or tear-off portion including a front end, a rear end, and a mid-portion between the front and rear ends, said extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that said front end is lower than said rear end, the tubular case housing a plurality of stacked unit packages, each of the unit packages comprised of a plurality of batteries positioned in a side-by-side relationship, a first battery in each unit package being positioned adjacent a front wall of said tubular case and a second battery in each unit package being positioned adjacent a rear wall of said tubular case, a base unit package being in facing engagement with the top surface of the bottom wall, the first battery of the base unit package being positioned proximate the front end of the extracting outlet and the second battery of the base unit package being positioned proximate the rear end of the extracting outlet.

18. (Currently Amended) A dispensing package comprising:

a ~~square~~-tubular case including two opposing side walls and opposing front and rear walls, the case housing stacked unit packages, each package containing a plurality of stick-like articles aligned in parallel with the front wall of the ~~square~~-tubular case, the stick-like articles

being stacked in a side-by-side relationship in each unit package and having a first stick-like article and a second stick like article positioned at either end of the unit packages;

an opening for putting in and out the unit packages provided on an upper part of said ~~square~~-tubular case;

a lid for closing said opening;

a bottom; and

an extracting outlet or a tear-off portion for forming an extracting outlet for extracting one of the unit packages, the extracting outlet or tear-off portion being inclined so that a front end is lower than a rear end, wherein a top surface of said bottom is inclined so that a front side of the bottom is lower than a rear side thereof and said extracting outlet or the tear-off portion is provided on a side wall and extends to portions of the front and rear walls of said ~~square~~-tubular case such that the unit package, which is to be placed on the top surface of the bottom, is removed by pulling one end of the stick-like articles in the unit package through the opening in the side wall by grasping the unit package through the extracting outlet ~~at the front and rear walls~~adjacent the first and second stick-like articles, respectively, the first stick-like article being positioned adjacent the front wall of the tubular case and the second stick-like article being positioned adjacent the rear wall of the tubular case.